



# ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

Ron Fuller, Chief Electrical Inspector

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## ● LAST CHANCE! “Grandfathering” Experience For Appliance Repair Certification

As of June 30, 2005, a revision to WAC 296-46B-950 will allow individuals, who have not previously held a temporary 07D electrician certificate, a final opportunity to use previous experience to qualify for the 07D appliance repair specialty electrician certification examination. Experience obtained without possessing a training certificate or working under the supervision of a certified 07D appliance repair specialty electrician may be “grandfathered” for performing appliance repair-type work. There is no window for any other specialty or any type of administrator during this process.

**From June 30, 2005 to June 30, 2006 only**, applications will be available on the “Forms and Publications” page of our Web site and accepted if the individual submits all of the following:

- ◆ An APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY APPLIANCE REPAIR SPECIALTY ELECTRICIAN PERMIT (Valid as allowed and described in WAC 296-46B-940(28)). The fee is \$99.00. (\$23.90 in nonrefundable after the application for the original specialty electrician certificate is submitted.) (\$52.70 is nonrefundable after the temporary permit is issued.) A separate \$50.00 fee for the examination is paid directly to the exam contractor when scheduling the examination.
- ◆ A notarized verification letter from the individual’s employer(s) documenting:
  - The work was in the appliance repair specialty scope of work [as described in WAC 296-46B-920(2)(k)]. The employer must have been in the business of appliance repair work during the entire verification period and must establish legal business status during this time with copies of their business license or RCW 18.27 contractor registration. Sole proprietors with one year (2,000 hours) of the above business documentation and experience may verify their own experience;
  - The specific date time period for which credit is being sought; and
  - The number of previous work experience hours for which credit is being sought. (Coincidental experience previously claimed in another specialty for the same time period, will not be allowed.)

Individuals credited with the minimum 2,000 hours of previous work experience will be eligible for a temporary specialty electrician permit for the purposes of working without supervision and for supervising trainees in the appliance repair specialty. **The temporary permit will be valid for a period of 12 months** or until the individual has passed the appliance repair examination, whichever comes first. If the individual does not successfully complete the exam in the 12-month period, they must obtain a training certificate and work under supervision to continue performing appliance repair.

## ● Lineman Position Added To The Electrical Board

House Bill 1557 expanded the membership of the Electrical Board to 15 members by adding a **lineman position** and was signed by Governor Gregoire on May 4, 2005. The effective date of the bill is July 24, 2005 and the governor must appoint an individual to the position within 90 days of the effective date. The governor’s office has requested that all applications for this position be received **no later than June 30, 2005**. Any applicants that meet the qualifications are encouraged to apply for the position. For additional information on the Electrical Board please visit the website below.

<http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical/ElecBoard/>

Applications must be made using the *Application For Gubernatorial Appointment To A Board Or Commission* form. Applicants must submit a letter of interest, completed application form (link below), and current resume. Originals must be sent to the Office of the Governor, PO Box 40002, Olympia, WA 98504-0002 and a copy to the Chief Electrical Inspector, PO Box 44460, Olympia WA 98504-4460, no later than June 30, 2005. Any application received after that date will not be considered. Applicants should be prepared to demonstrate support from any group(s) or associations in the electrical industry that the position represents. Requests for copies of the application and any questions may be directed to Angie Wharton at (360) 902-5259 or downloaded at:

<http://www.governor.wa.gov/actions/appointments/boards/application.doc>

### ● Important Change In Electrical Permitting Process

Significant change has taken place in the way the department processes and assigns numbers to electrical permits. We have discontinued use of the pre-printed, multi-color permit application forms.

**Without exception, the pre-printed permit applications are no longer being accepted.** Any of the old forms received will be returned to the sender with a new form to be completed and returned. An electrical permit will not be valid until the new form has been completed, received, and assigned a valid permit number in the department's database. If you do not have an electronic number assigned to your permit, you do not have a valid permit, and you may be subject to a citation.

The new forms utilize specific line-item fees for each aspect of the job to accurately describe the work that is being performed. This will speed up the processing of the application and will help the inspector to identify the scope of work the electrical contractor or homeowner intends to perform on the jobsite. If any contractors have any of the old pre-printed, multi-color permit applications in the office or in their service trucks, they should be discarded immediately to eliminate the chance of accidental use.

### ● Reminder: Submit WAC Rule Revision Proposals July 1 through July 15

Revision proposals for the next cycle will be accepted from July 1, 2005 through July 15, 2005. Any proposals received before or after that date will be discarded. The form will be available on the Labor and Industries website (below) on June 20<sup>th</sup> and must be submitted electronically. See the March 2005 special edition *Electrical Currents* newsletter for details on all aspects of the rule revision process. Please contact the electrical program at (360) 902-5269 with any questions.

[www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical](http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Electrical)

### ● Access For Hydromassage Tub Equipment Must Be Provided

NEC 680.73 states that "*Hydromassage bathtub electrical equipment shall be accessible without damaging the buildings structure or building finish.*" There have been a significant number of corrections written for this code violation. All electric motors or pumps eventually require servicing. The size of the access is typically stated on the manufactures installation requirements. If the installation requirements are not present the access must be large enough to remove and replace the largest piece of electrical equipment without causing damage.

Disconnection of the plumbing and wastewater connections and removal of the entire tub from its mounting does not constitute the type of access to the electrical equipment required by the NEC. It is the responsibility of the electrical contractor to communicate this requirement to the general contractor so appropriate framing modifications, access panels, or building finish modifications can be planned and identified for the electrical inspector at the time of inspection. This is an electrical correction and the electrical contractor is responsible for the corrections and any necessary trip fees.

### ● Warning's Will Be Issued For Fee Dues

Due to the increasing amount of fee dues the department has had to process in the recent months, written warnings will be issued to the electrical contractors and the assigned administrator/master electrician for work not included on the permit. Fee dues take a significant amount of an inspector's time to process. It is the responsibility of the administrator to ensure that the complete scope of the work is included with the purchase of the permit.

### ● Electrical Question of the Month

**This Month's Question:** Electricity cost 13 cents per kilowatt hour. Ten metal halide high bay lights draw 2 amps each at 240 volts for 12 hours a day 5 days a week. How much will these lights cost in a four week period? **A)** \$419, **B)** \$150, **C)** \$105, **D)** \$210.

**Last Month's Question:** Bare aluminum or copper clad aluminum grounding electrode conductors are not permitted to be terminated within \_\_\_\_ inches of the earth.. **A)** 12, **B)** 15, **C)** 18, **D)** 24. The answer is C [NEC 250.120(B)]